

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT OF UNEMPLOYED KEYNOTE AT HOBOES GATHERING

Municipal government of the unemployed was the keynote of the addresses delivered last night at Hull House to the International Brotherhood Association.

Lieut.-Gov. Barratt O'Hara suggested that the city might conduct a municipal ice business and employ the men in harvesting the ice. He declared this would serve the double purpose of giving work to the jobless and furnishing ice to the poor in the summer at reduced prices instead of forcing them, because of the small quantities they are able to buy, to pay extortionate rates, as is the policy of the trusts today.

After stating that he knew of many worthy men and women connected with organized charity, the lieutenant-governor criticized those men who pay starvation wages to men, women and children, and then, from the profits they make from that underpayment, give money as contributions to charity.

He hopefully predicted a change in working conditions in the near future when men would not be found crushing out the blood of working women by paying less than a living wage, and being heralded as great men because they give some of that money to charity.

Excoriating the present system whereby working men are paid \$12 on which to support themselves and their families, he declared that it forced the daughters into competition with the fathers and the brothers, and that this condition was being taken advantage of by the employers.

Mrs. Laufa Dainty Pelham of Hull House said that all of the unemployed men in the city could be kept busy for a long while to come in cleaning up the city and cited the 19th ward in which she lives as capable of furnishing employment to men for a long while to come. She likened

some of the alleys in that ward to the Alps.

Dr. Rufus White, chairman of Mayor Harrison's commission appointed more than a year ago to solve the problem of the city's unemployed, defended the committee by stating that they had decided it was not their work to secure positions for jobless men, but to investigate the conditions which render unemployment possible.

He also explained that the committee had prepared a bill to establish employment agencies, and sent same to Springfield, but no one had gone there to lobby it through.

J. J. Coburn spoke in a satirical vein that failed to reach some of the women in the audience, who accepted the statements literally. Mr. Coburn told how different millionaires of Chicago had built up their fortunes, by industry and economy, and, though his examples plainly demonstrated that dishonesty was the ingredient used in the largest proportion, failure to specifically state this caused some of the women to interrupt the meeting and question him.

Mr. Coburn believes it is the duty of the state to provide for the unemployed as they do for the insane. He advocates a fund being set aside, from which a man out of employment may draw a fair wage until he can be given employment.

Dr. J. H. Greer, who has been investigating labor conditions in England, believed that England is in a more deplorable condition than this country from the standpoint of economic injustice, but sounded the warning that we are rapidly approaching the same state.

Dr. Alex. Gustafson explained the dangers that surround the man out of employment and emphatically corrected the sometimes prevailing impression that the unemployed are the people who do not want to work. He